

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT OSLO 4625 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS
LONDON PARIS 15 OCT

QUOTE

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FROM YODER AND HEG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV TGEN NO

SUBJ: FIRST SESSION OF ANTARCTIC TREATY PREPCOM MEETING

1. MEETING, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF AMB. E. HAMBRO (NORWAY), OPENED WITH A PREPARED STATEMENT NY AMN. JUAN BELTRAMINO (ARGENTINA) REPORTED SEPTTEL (OSLO 4624). CHMN SUGGESTED DATE FOR EIGHTH CONSULTATIVE AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN (NORWAY) REPORTED GON UNABLE TO ENGAGE INTERPRETERS FOR A MEETING EARLIER THAN 14 APRIL.

2. CARRASCO (CHILE) SPOKE FIRST STATING THAT MATTER OF DATE WAS A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION AND STRONGLY URGED POSTPONEMENT UNTIL AFTER GENEVA SESSION OF LOS CONF. CHILE'S VIEW DREW IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FROM
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BELGIUM, AUSTRALIA, UK AND SOUTH AFRICA. ROBERTS

(UK) SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING SOME AGREED INSTRUMENT PRIOR TO GENEVA MTG TO DEMONSTRATE THAT TREATY PARTIES HAVE MATTER UNDER CONTROL.

3. UK SUGGESTION SUPPORTED BY NEW ZEALAND, ARGENTINA WHO PROPOSED A SECOND PREPCOM MTG BEFORE LOS AND CONSULTATIVE MTG AFTER LOS, AND FRANCE WHO STRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR UK SUGGESTION AND SAID THAT TREATY TWELVE MUST REACH A CONSENSUS BEFORE LOS MTG. MCLEAN (NZ) STATED GNZ SUPPORT OF POSTPONEMENT CONDITIONED ON SERIOUS EFFORT OF TWELVE TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON LOS ISSUE BEFORE GENEVA MTG.

4. JAPAN, USSR, AND US DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO DEBATE. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN LATER REPORTED TO USDEL THAT SOVDEL HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BEYOND APPROVING DATES ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED BY NORWAY FOR EIGHTH CONSULTATIVE.

5. COMMENT. CLAIMANT STATES SUPPORTED BY BELGIUM AND SOUTH AFRICA OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF UN TAKEOVER OF ANTARCTIC RESOURCE ISSUE. BELTRAMINO (ARGENTINA) TOLD USDEL PRIVATELY THAT ARGENTINA AND CHILE ARE PREPARED TO FACE UP TO RESOURCE ISSUE RESPONSIBLY AND REALISTICALLY. TRESSELT (NORWAY) PRIVATELY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR OBJECTIVES OF UK SUGGESTION BUT RESERVATIONS REGARDING REACTION OF LDCS TO A "FAIT ACCOMPLI" BY TREATY PARTIES. TRESSELT SAID IN HIS VIEW PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WITH LDCS LIES IN CONTINENTAL SHELF OF UNCLAIMED SECTOR, IN THAT LDCS WILL QUICKLY COMPREHEND PROTECTIONIST STANCE OF ANTARCTIC CLAIMANTS.

6. JAPAN APPEARS INCLINED TO SUPPORT CLAIMANT VIEWS ON NECESSITY OF MOVING TO BLOCK UN TAKEOVER. LACK OF US POSITION ON LOS ISSUE SPECIFICALLY AND RESOURCE QUESTION GENERALLY IS PLACING US ON SIDE OF USSR IN PREVENTING MEANINGFUL CONCLUSION ON LOS ISSUE BY PREPCOM MTG. SOVDEL MAY WELL BE CONTENT TO LEAVE ISSUE UNRESOLVED OR INCONCLUSIVE SINCE THIS CAN HAVE EFFECT OF DENYING ANTARCTIC PETROLEUM TO TREATY POWERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SEEMING TO CHAMPION CAUSE OF LDCS.
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